A Brief Guide for Families, Organizations and Public Officials

Resources to inform, support and prepare families for a possible return to Mexico

WHAT TO DO IF THE PARENTS AND/OR LEGAL GUARDIANS HAVE BEEN DETAINED OR DEPORTED AND THE CHILDREN ARE IN THE CUSTODY OF CHILD WELFARE AUTHORITIES

Parents and guardians in immigration detention have the right to maintain contact with their children, family, and attorney during detention. They should insist on consistent communication to avoid the risk of losing custody of their children.

Additionally, parents and/or guardians in detention or have been deported should:

1. Contact the Protection Office for Mexicans Abroad of the Mexican Consulate in the city or state where their children are residing. Call the Mexican Consulate's central hotline, the Center for Information and Assistance for Mexicans (CIAM). Families can call toll free from the U.S. by dialing 1 855-INFO-395 (1 855-4636-395), or make a long-distance call from Mexico by dialing 001(520)6237874.

2. Contact the social worker in charge of their child welfare case. If parents don't know who the social worker is, contact the office of Child Protective Services (CPS) of the city where the children are residing and ask for the social worker´s name and phone number. Call the social worker as soon as possible and ask for a copy of the case information including hearing dates.

Even if direct contact has been stablished with the CPS social worker, call the Mexican Consulate or the Mexican Foreign Ministry (SRE) Delegation office to inform them that you have a CPS case pending in the U.S.

Check out additional IMUMI resources here: **Video and infographic.**

3. If custody proceedings have initiated, call the family or juvenile court with jurisdiction to determine if the parent has appointed counsel in the case most states provide attorneys for parents who are in termination proceedings. Check here to get more information about parent rights in specific states.

4. Contact the delegation office of the Foreign Ministry (SRE) in Mexico if the parent or guardian has returned. The Protection Office for Mexicans Abroad of the SRE delegation should immediately notify the Mexican Consulate closest to the child in the U.S. and the Mexican Child Welfare System (children and family services, known as DIF). The Mexican Consulate should contact CPS and gather all the details of the case in order to inform the parent and assist with compliance with the Parenting Plan if needed.

